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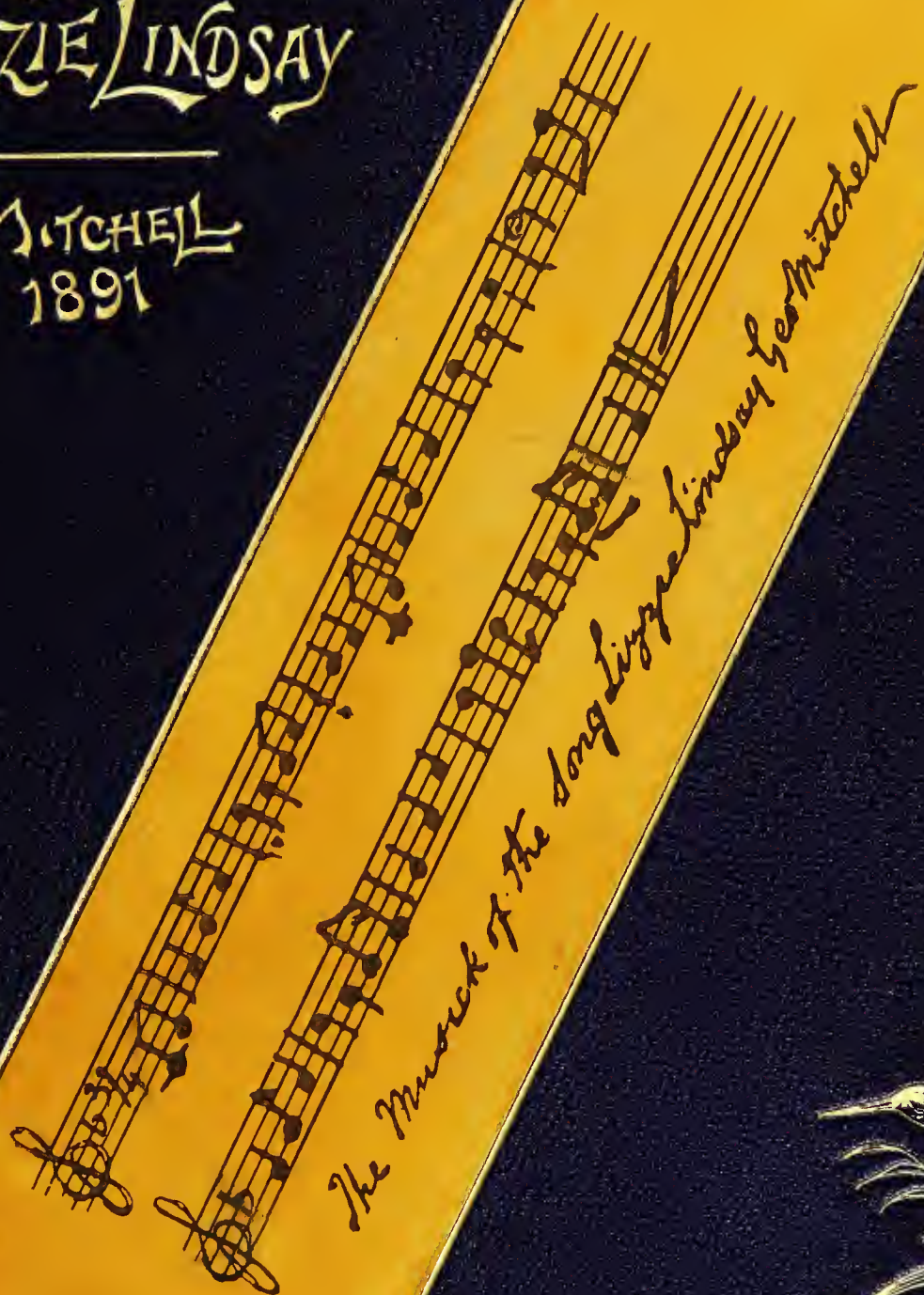
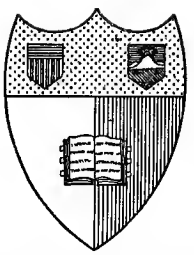
The Ballad Lizzie Lindsay

Mitchell
1891



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LIZZIE LINDSAY.

Geo Mitchell

THE BALLAD,

LIZZIE LINDSAY,

WRITTEN FROM MEMORY BY

GEORGE MITCHELL,

AT MRS. DAWSON ROWLEY'S REQUEST,

1891.

PRIVATELY PRINTED, 1895.

BRIGHTON: J. BEAL AND SON.

A567995

PREFATORY NOTE.

This Version of "Lizzie Lindsay" was procured October 5th, 1891, from George Mitchell, Ground Officer, Edzell Castle, Forfarshire, who derived it from his Step-Grandmother, Mrs. Lamond (Nelly Low), fifty-eight years ago, she being at the time 80 years old. It was communicated to Professor Child, who considered it of sufficient importance to be printed in the "Additions and Corrections" of his great Ballad work (Part VIII., p. 524). In the opinion of some competent authorities, it is one of the best versions of the ballad yet published.

The earliest mention of the Ballad is in "Johnson's Musical Museum" (No. 434), where Burns contributed the air along with the first stanza. Robert Allan added two stanzas to the above in R. A. Smith's "Scottish Minstrel" (Vol. II., pp. 100, 101), making Lizzie a poor lassie. On 9th June, 1805, Professor Scott of Aberdeen sent a copy (10 verses) to Jamieson, which was printed in his "Popular Ballads, 1806," Vol. II., p. 149, with corrections from Jamieson's recollection in two or three passages. Two versions are given in the Kinloch MSS. under the title, "Donald of the Isles,"—one of which appeared in "Aytoun's Ballads," Vol. I., p. 277. Buchan prints in his "Ballads of the North of Scotland, 1828," Vol. II., p. 102, what he calls the ballad "in its complete state, for the first time." In Professor Child's work, seven traditionary versions are given (exclusive of the present copy), along with a number of minor variations.

The story has not been traced to any historical foundation; and in the Kinloch MSS. it is said, "According to the tradition of Mearnsshire [Lizie Lindsay] is said to have been a daughter of Lindsay of Edzell; but I have searched in vain for genealogical confirmation of the tradition." (See Child's Ballads, Part VIII., p. 255).

W. W.

The Musick of the Song Lizzie Lindsay Geo Mitchell

THE SONG, "LIZZIE LINDSAY."

I.

Will ye gang to the Heilands, Lizie Lindsay?
Will ye gang to the Heilands with me?
Will ye gang to the Heilands, Lizie Lindsay,
My Bride and my Darling to be?

II.

She turned her roun on her heel,
An a very lowd laugh gaed she;
I would like to ken where I ganging,
And wha I was gaun to gang wi?

III.

My name it is Donald McDonald,
I'll never think shame or deny;
My Father he is an auld Shepherd,
My Mither she is an auld dey.

IV.

Will ye gang to the Heilands, Bonnie Lizie?
Will ye gang to the Heilands wi me?
For yes get a bed of green rushes,
A cod, and covering of gray.

V.

Up raise then the bonnie young lady,
And drew till her stockens and shoon,
And packed up her claise in fine bundle,
And away wi' young Donald she's gane.

VI.

When they came near the end of their journey,
To the house of his Father's milk dey,
He said, stay still there, Lizie Lindsay,
Till I tell my Mither of thee.

VII.

Now makes us a supper, dear Mither,
The best of your curds an green whey;
And make up a bed of green rushes,
A cod, and a covering of gray.

VIII.

Rise up, rise up, Lizie Lindsay,
Ye have lain over lang in the day;
Ye should have been helping my Mither
To milk her ewes and her kye.

IX.

Out then spake the bonnie young lady,
When the saut tear dropt frae her eye:
I wish that I had bidden at home,
I can neither milk ewes nor kye.

X.

Rise up, rise up, Lizie Lindsay,
There mair fairlies to spy,
For yonder is the Castle of Kingussie,
And it stands heigh and dry.

XI.

Ye are welcome here, Lizie Lindsay,
The flower of all your kin,
For ye shall be Lady of Kingussie,
And ye shall get Donald my son.

NOTES OF THE MITCHELL FAMILY,

AND

GEORGE MITCHELL'S RECOLLECTION OF THE SONG, "LIZIE LINDSAY,"

My Step-Grandmother, Mrs. Lamond (maiden name, Nelly Low), was born in the Parish of Edzell, in the year **1775**, died at Dalbog, Parish of Edzell, December, **1847**, aged **92**.

It was from her that I learnt the Version of the Song, "Lizie Lindsay," 59 years ago. I used to sing it along with her when I was a little boy, till I was **10**. I remember when singing she used always to say, "I suppose she was one of the Edzell Lindsays," and that was what the people of the locality believed.

Her Father was a Piper, a staunch Jacobite, and played the Pipes on the Battle-field of Culloden, **1746**.

My Forbears were Tenents in Nether Careston for generations.

It is about thirty years since the last Mitchell's Tack ran out. He did not renew it, but took his family and settled in America.

My Grandfather, Robert Mitchell, played the Violin, but my Father, (also Robert,) was one of the best Pipers in Forfarshire.

I had six brothers, five of whom played the Pipes.

My Father, Robert Mitchell, was born in the Parish of Marykirk in the year 1784. He married Helen Christison, my Mother, in the year 1806, a daughter of the late Hugh Christison, Farmer, Wood of Dalbog. She died in the year 1825, aged 42. My Father died in the year 1865, aged 81. My Step-Mother died in the year 1864, aged 77. They were all buried in the Churchyard of Edzell.

I was born at the Coltshill Wood of Dalbog in the year 1823, married Jessie Wilkie, daughter of the late David Wilkie, Farmer of Bonharry, Parish of Edzell, in the year 1848. She died in June, 1865, aged 42, and was buried in the Churchyard of Fettercairn.

I married Lizzie Middleton, my present wife, in the year 1870, a daughter of the late John Middleton, Farmer of Burnside of Dalforth, Parish of Edzell. She was born July, 1828.

GEORGE MITCHELL,

Ground Officer, Edzell Castle.

October 3rd, 1892.

NOTE.—George Mitchell played the Pipes and Violin till he lost his forefinger eighteen years ago.

He is a successful Violin maker.